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636 administrative units, such as, for instance, the West Siberian Territory,
656 the East Siberian Territory and the North Caucasus Territory. The Far Eastern Territory was, however, the last to be affected by these administrative reforms, and then only after the purges there had been completed. On October 20th, 1938, it was decreed that the Far Eastern Territory would cease to exist and that two new 'Territories' would take its place, the Khabarovsk Territory, which still included the bulk of the former F.E.T., and the Maritime Territory, with Vladivostok as the capital. After the war the administrative splitting up of the Soviet Far East was carried further. In the west, the Khabarovsk Territory lost the Amur Province (administrative centre: Blagoveshchensk) and, in the east, Sakhalin was removed from its jurisdiction and made a self-contained province.

625 To consolidate the position of the party in the two new 'Territories',
433 a position so badly shaken by the purges, the government saw it necessary to strengthen the powers of the N.K.V.D., particularly the control which the latter exercised over several vital branches of Soviet Far Eastern economy. The full extent of the N.K.V.D. rule in the Far East was disclosed by the Soviet Economic Plan for 1941, a secret document produced for inter-departmental use, but not intended for the Soviet public and still less for foreigners.* It showed that the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs was a much more important organizer of certain industrial activities than the ministries nominally responsible for them. The plan revealed, for instance, that the N.K.V.D. controlled nearly 83 per cent of the coal output of the Khabarovsk Territory. Only 13 per cent of it was in the hands of the People's Commissariat for Coal (*Narkomugol*) and the remaining 4 per cent was split up between other ministries. In the field of timber production the N.K.V.D. did not hold the same monopoly. It provided 'only' one-third of the entire timber supply of the territory, slightly more than the quota allocated to the People's Commissariat for the Timber Industry (*Narkomles*). Another important sector of N.K.V.D. work was production of building material. Over one-fifth of the bricks produced in the Khabarovsk Territory in 1941 was to come from the Chief Administration of Corrective Labour Camps, one of the specialized agencies of the N.K.V.D. In the much smaller Maritime Territory the N.K.V.D. has little importance as an economic factor, except for the timber industry, where it tackled over 20 per cent of the whole production. But

* The full title of the document is 'Gosudarstvenny Plan Razvitiya Narodnogo Khozyaistva S.S.S.R. na 1941 god (Prilozheniya k Postanovleniyu S.N.K. S.S.S.R. i TsK VKP (b) Nr.' 127 ot 17 Yanvarya 1941 g.) – State Plan for the Development of the National Economy of the U.S.S.R. for 1941 (Appendices to the Decree of the Council of People's Commissars and of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), Nr 127 of January 17th, 1941.) The material on the economy of the Soviet Far East is contained in the appendices 371, 372 and 373, pp. 324–336.

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even where the N.K.V.D.-M.V.D. has no direct economic power it is the decisive political force, above all, in border areas like the Maritime Territory of the Soviet Far East.

There are indications, however, that the police ministry has encountered certain difficulties among the Far Eastern Russians during the war and post-war period. Conditions were certainly favourable to a re-emergence of that Far Eastern regionalism which Soviet power has tried so hard to eliminate. The people of Vladivostok, in particular, must have felt once more that the natural destiny of their city was that of a window into the world. They saw the many American lend-lease shipments arriving in their harbour and were bound to draw certain conclusions about the desirability of international trade and Soviet-American co-operation. More than people in other parts of the Soviet Union must the Russian inhabitants of the Pacific coastal areas have resented the policy of rigid isolationism which the Soviet Government has pursued particularly since 1947.

This frame of mind of the 'Far Easterners' makes it understandable that the very existence of an American consulate in Vladivostok was a matter of concern to the Soviet Government. The building of the consulate was put under constant supervision and for long periods it was floodlit at night. In 1948, the Soviet Government used a flimsy pretext to demand from the United States that they should withdraw their consular personnel from the Pacific port. The measure had little importance for the Americans as the activities of the four American consular officials were extremely limited, but it had a certain symbolic significance. The closing down of the consulate was a way of telling the people of Vladivostok that their hopes of their city becoming a link between Russia and the West were once more doomed. Some years later the charge was made that the consulate had been the centre of a spy-ring. This accusation was first put forward in the short story *In a Seaside Town* ('V Primorskom Gorode') which the popular Soviet illustrated *Ogonyok* published in 1950. In the daily press the 'plot' was mentioned for the first time on February 8th, 1953, when *Izvestiya* wrote : 'In 1947, the organs of the state security service liquidated a spy-nest organized by the assistant naval attaché at the American consulate general of Vladivostok, Richard'. *Izvestiya* produced no further details nor any evidence to support its disclosure which it simply quoted from a book *The Secret Weapon of the Doomed*. This latter work had come out under the auspices of the Komsomol organization. The absurdity of the Vladivostok spy story does not preclude the possibility that many Russian Far Easterners in the late 'forties' and early 'fifties' were persecuted for pro-Western sentiments just as others had been victimized for alleged pro-Japanese leanings in the late 'thirties.'

The particular sensitiveness which the Soviet authorities have shown

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167 higher. Since the agents were remunerated on a 'piece rate basis', they
656 were naturally interested in enlisting the largest possible number of people. One can well imagine that the recruiters made use of all sorts of glittering promises and also that they paid little attention to the character and abilities of the prospective Far Eastern colonists. The afore-mentioned Madame Khetagurova who exposed in a Moscow journal this 'recruitment racket', concluded her account laconically: 'And so it happened that quite a lot of scum was sent to the Far East'.[24]

167 Those consenting to go to the Far East as free workers received upon leaving Moscow or another city of European Russia a special bonus and a maintenance allowance covering the entire long journey from European Russia to their final place of destination. The total amount of bonuses and allowances thus earned might not have meant a great deal to a Western worker, but it was a considerable sum for the impoverished Soviet citizen of the 'thirties.' It was tempting and led to abuses. Quite a number of people cashed the special remuneration, went to the Far East, worked there for a while and got themselves discharged for reasons of health. Having returned to Moscow they let themselves be recruited once more for the Far East by another state trust and the whole game started again from the beginning.

162 The majority of the voluntary colonists who, up to the end of the
361 Second Five-Year Plan, came to the Soviet Far East established themselves in towns. The two largest cities of the Soviet Far East, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, therefore grew considerably. Between 1926 and 1939 the population of Khabarovsk increased from 52,000 to 199,000, and that of Vladivostok from 108,000 to 206,000.

369 As a consequence of the growth of the existing towns and the foundation of new ones such as Komsomolsk, Magadan and Birobidzhan City, the relation between the urban and rural population in the Far East changed to the detriment of the villages. In 1926 only 24 per cent of the population of the Far East lived in towns, but by 1939 over half of all 'Far Easterners' could be classified as 'urban'.

185 The encouragement of the urban population in the Far Eastern
369 provinces led to neglect of agriculture. During the period of the First
433 and Second Five-Year Plans the area under cultivation in the Soviet Far East diminished by over 20 per cent, from 2,848,000 acres in 1928 to 2,223,000 acres in 1938. Consequently, instead of providing more for the newcomers, the food supply for the Soviet Far East became more dependent on deliveries from areas thousands of miles away. This created an unsatisfactory situation not only from the narrow economic point of view but also from the military which demanded complete self-sufficiency in fuel, raw materials and food. Molotov himself proclaimed the principal of self-sufficiency for the Soviet Far East at the Eighteenth Congress of the Bolshevik Party, in March 1939, and

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demanded, in particular, 'full liquidation' of all shortcomings in Far Eastern agriculture. The Third Five-Year Plan, therefore, aimed at an increase of the agricultural population of the Far East. About 100,000 new collective farmers were to settle down in the Khabarovsk Territory[25] alone.

The outbreak of the war prevented the full implementation of the resettlement plan, but it was, at least, successfully started. Russian peasants went to the Far East mainly from the Provinces of Kursk, Oryol, Voronezh, Ryazan, Stalingrad, Tambov and Penza. Kursk and Oryol seem to have led the migration movement. There was a great deal of propaganda for the resettlement plan and during a certain period almost every single issue of the Moscow newspapers carried a news-item showing how well those farmers had fared who had consented to go to the Far East, and how heartily they had been received there by the old-timers. The big All-Union Agricultural Exhibition which was opened in Moscow on the eve of the Second World War was likewise put into the service of the resettlement campaign. The Far Eastern pavilion of the exhibition illustrated, with the help of statistics and pictures, all the delights of peasant life east of Lake Baikal. In addition, the pavilion served as a convenient place for officially organized meetings at which collective farmers of the Chita Province, and the Khabarovsk and Maritime Territories talked to peasants of European Russia about the advantages of Far Eastern agriculture.[26] These propaganda efforts were not in vain. In fact, the resettlement plan for 1940 was already fulfilled by October of that year,[27] and numerous peasant settlers also went to the Far East in the first half of 1941, continuing to do so almost until the Hitlerite invasion of the Soviet Union.

Peasant colonization in the Far East was resumed after the war. Its precise extent is not known. Official Soviet sources have shrouded it in mystery and apparently consider it a military secret. In the absence of reliable statistics a rough, and not necessarily accurate, estimate about the increase in the population of the Soviet Far East can only be made by a comparison of the numbers of constituencies which were created for the elections of 1937, 1946 and 1950. There was hardly any change between 1937 and 1946. For the Supreme Soviet elections in 1937 the F.E.T. was subdivided into nine constituencies, each of them representing a theoretical population of 300,000. The total population of the Far East in the narrower sense (including Sakhalin) was, thus, 2,700,000. In 1946 the Khabarovsk and Maritime Territories comprised nine constituencies on the Asiatic mainland, whilst a tenth constituency was formed by Sakhalin and the Kurile archipelago. The total population of the Soviet Far East at the beginning of 1946 could, therefore, hardly have exceeded 2,700,000 on the Asiatic continent or 3,000,000, including the Soviet island possessions in the Pacific.

241 to the cultivation of sugar beets; the area devoted to their cultivation has again increased in the Khanka Lake area. Tea is supposed to become a new product of the /Russian/ Far East. In 1950 /131/ the [242] Botanical Institute of Leningrad sent an expedition there in order to explore, by attempts at cultivation, the practical possibility of planting tea bushes.

241 433 All the reports mentioned above are only individual pictures of the agricultural film which is being run in the Far East. These pictures show the great strivings of the Soviet Union to use all its power to advance agriculture in these regions. If the grain harvest in the actual Far Eastern area had increased 150 percent in 1947 as compared with 1913 and the potato harvest had even increased 200 percent (Trud, 25 October 1947), this increase in production stands in contrast to an approximately 300 percent increase in population in the same period; accordingly even today the same problems still exist in supplying the population of this area with food, as has been described in the above chapter, since an additional population increase runs parallel to the increase in production, even though the two curves may perhaps have gotten somewhat closer since 1947. The actual Far Eastern regions (not including the Buryat Mongol ASSR and the Chita Oblast) can still be regarded even today as import areas in terms of food. Their dependence on obtaining supplies is alleviated by the increased cultivation of potatoes and soy beans, and import at present is no longer a problem since Manchuria with its agricultural surplus has beerr brought into the Soviet sphere.

Animal Breeding

231 433 In the livestock-breeding of the Soviet Union Transbaykal assumes a prominent position. While on the average there are 233 cattle to 1,000 persons in the Soviet republic, there are 1,367 cattle to 1,000 persons (1938/39) in the Buryat Mongol ASSR; and while there are 602 sheep and goats per 1,000 persons on the overall average in the USSR, there are here 1,786. The important livestock-breeding areas lie left [232] of the Selenga and right of the Ude. The breeding of better strains is being carried out according to plan by crossing the Mongol cattle with the Simmentaler and by crossing the native sheep with the Rambouillet-Merino. The steppe region left of the Selenga is thus the breeding ground for improved strains. The livestock here is housed for the winter in warm stalls and fed with prepared feed. The horse, which constitutes

11.7 percent of all the livestock, and also the pig, which constitutes 6.7 percent, play a slight role in the animal economy. The situation of animal breeding in Chita Oblast is similar and has the same favorable perspectives. Dairy farming stands in the foreground here in cattle breeding. In the steppe regions of the Onon and Argun a number of studs also serve horse-breeding. In the same region camels are also bred, whose number is given at 7,000. Transbaykal as a whole is a surplus area both in grain cultivation and in animal breeding. 231 433* [234]

/132/ The following table indicates how very prominent the Buryat Mongol ASSR and Chita Oblast are in animal breeding in the overall economy of the Soviet Union:

On a collective farm in 1938 there were:

	Soviet Union	Buryat Mongol ASSR	Chita Oblast
Horses	0.7	2.0	2.5
Cattle	2.2	6.0	6.5
Sheep, goats	2.9	19.0	11.9

It is different in the Amur and Ussuri country. Animal breeding is insufficient and doesn't even cover the needs of the area. Even horses must be imported. In the southern part of the Ussuri region milk and work cattle are kept; otherwise a dairy cow farming worthy of mention has developed only in the vicinity of the cities. Meadowlands are lacking for the maintenance of cattle on a large scale. On the other hand cattle can be found in isolated cases everywhere, even in the far north. On Kamchatka their number reaches several thousand. The number of pigs in the Amur and Ussuri region is comparatively larger than in Transbaykal since the Chinese and Koreans also keep pigs. The quality, however, is low. In meat supplies, too, the Far Eastern region requires additional imports.

The reindeer breeding in the extreme northeast of the region deserves special attention. The moss tundra extending from the Chukchi Peninsula into Kamchatka offers excellent grazing land. With the European north, these regions stand in first place in reindeer breeding in the Soviet Union, which has contributed in its further development by establishing several reindeer sovkhoz. The number of animals is estimated at a total of approximately 750,000. The reindeer not only provides meat for local needs, but also provides meat for canning, for which a special factory has been erected in Anadyr'. The hides of

231 the young reindeer are processed for leather and as wild leather (chamois leather) are a product in demand for export.

Hunting

224 The valuable fur-bearing animals, once so numerous, have almost completely disappeared from the settled areas and have withdrawn into the inaccessible wastelands. And, nevertheless, the Far Eastern region with its vast, wild forests is still, even today, a grateful empire of hunters. Approximately a third of the furs acquired in the Soviet Union are won in the Far East. Transbaykal is not so active in this. Squirrels and foxes provide the bulk of the skins ; the sable has been completely exterminated in wide stretches of land and is now only rarely encountered. In the tundra region the Polar fox is the most important animal hunted. /133/ The number of large wild animals has also been heavily decimated by the earlier rapacious hunting. The spotted stag /Fleckenhirsch/, sought because of its "Panten" /unhardened antlers/ and formerly very numerous in the Amur and Ussuri region, occurs now only very rarely in the open hunting ground and is kept today only in animal parks in the Sikhote-Alin'; of these seven are known with several thousand stags. For the protection of the plant and animal world rather large areas in the Sikhote-Alin', on Kamchatka, and on Lake Baykal have been declared nature protection areas.

Hunting for fur-bearing animals is organized by the state and is done from numerous "bases, " where the hunter receives not only his hunting equipment but also other necessities of life, and then goes out to hunt in cadres. In their hunting, these state hunters have to follow fixed instructions, varying from place to place, for the sparing and preservation of the wild life. At the end of the hunting period the skins are delivered to the bases, and the hunter is paid according to his output.

Fishing and Hunting of Sea Animals

226 In Transbaykal, which lies inland, fishing has only a subordinate role. Apart from small lakes, which are, however, rich in fish, the fishing practised professionally is concentrated on Lake Baykal. Its outstanding fish is the omul (Coregonus omul Pall.), a type of salmon, [255] whose spawn is bred and set out. Some fish canning factories in various ooo localities on the coast process the catch not used locally. Not insignicant

knowledge of the wealth of this region were spurs to pushing recklessly forward in the exploitation by using work camps. As a consequence, the Kolyma area today is among the most notorious regions in the Soviet Union, and is one of those most feared, because of the harshness of its climate. 135

For the opening up of this area building was done on the harbor and city of Magadan on Nagayevo Bay. The inhabitants of this city today are estimated to be 50,000. A highway was laid out to connect with the gold fields; by 1940 this highway had already attained a length of more than 700 kilometers, and it connected all the important mining centers. The road is kept usable for trucks the whole year through. The supplying of the entire area is done via the sea route, for the most part via Magadan, and for the rest from the north via the Kolyma. Since these connections, however, are closed off by ice for more than six months during the long winter, they proceeded to create a permanent land connection by building a highway from the center of the gold district to Yakutsk on the Lena. Of considerable importance for the development of this regions is also the fact that hard coal has been found on the Kolyma in the vicinity of the town of Verkhne-Kolymsk. Some Sovkhoz have been founded as a local source of supply for vegetables, milk, and fresh meat. [491]

The main gold fields lie west of the Buyunda, a /169/ right tributary of the Kolyma, primarily in the area of the Srednikan and Orotukan rivers. At first only the very productive gold streams were exploited, but then the mining of mine gold was also taken up. Mine gold is especially rich in the mountains on the Srednikan, on the Utina, and on the Khatynakh. The most important centers of the gold district are Srednikan, Orotukan, Khatynakh, and Seymchan.

Gold extraction in the Kolyma region developed as follows in comparison with the total production of the Soviet Union (Figures are in 1,000 kilograms): 316 433

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Soviet Union	83.0	120.0	149.0	163.0	176.0	192.0	210.0
Kolyma Region	0.3	1.2	8.0	12.3	20.0	30.0	51.0
Percentage of the whole supplied by the Kolyma Region	0.4	1.0	5.4	7.5	11.3	15.6	24.3

(Table continued on following page)

316
433

	1940	1941
Soviet Union	225.0	240.0
Kolyma Region	51.0	55.6
Percentage of the whole supplied by the Kolyma Region	22.7	23.2

The share of the Kolyma region has risen to almost 25 percent of the total extraction done in the Soviet Union. According to definite plans, gold production in the Kolyma area is to be raised to 75,000 kilograms. Friedensburg, in his book on "Gold" which appeared recently, has collected together in a table of figures (63) all estimates and

63. Friedensburg, F., "Gold," Die Metallischen Rohstoffe /Metallic Raw Material/, Vol. 3, 2nd edition (Stuttgart, 1953), p. 178.

reckonings on the total gold extraction in the Soviet Union. With justice he points out the confusion that rules on this question even in foreign agencies versed in such affairs. Nevertheless, I do not shy from bringing the above table which rests on my own sources. The present production may be assumed to be approximately 250,000 kilograms (1952). In any case, it is certain that the Kolyma region stands at the head of all gold fields in the Soviet Union. According to the supplies explored, mining is assured for 15 to 20 years if the extraction remains at 75,000 kilograms.

The Forests and the Use of Wood

311 The forests of Transbaykal and of the Soviet Far Eastern regions are, by European standards, as large as countries. The forested area covers around 1,800,000 square kilometers. While the Far Eastern regions contribute around 17.5 percent of the total area of the USSR, these regions provide 21 percent of the total forested area.

The distribution and extent of the forests in the Soviet Far East are shown in the following table:

(Table on following page)

Soviet Union can rely on rich experience in the execution of projects of this type. Sufficient preparations in this direction have been made, as is summarized in the Atlas of Sources of Energy in the USSR, and from these preparations it can be seen what significant sources of energy, precisely in water power, still lie unused. The potential energy of water power in the Buryat-Mongol ASSR is estimated to be 7 million kilowatts. Chita Oblast is considered to be less favorable. The other Far Eastern regions are all the more richly equipped: their energy is reckoned to be 31 million kilowatts. 377

The Processing Industry

Some of the various branches of the processing industry have already been mentioned in the discussion of the raw material concerned. This applies especially to the wood and fish industries, which far exceed all other industrial branches, both in the number of plants and in the number of employees in these plants. From the extraordinary wealth of fish and wood it follows that the Far Eastern regions can not only supply themselves with these products but also that with their surplus they can contribute significantly in increasing measure to the supplying of the other parts of the Soviet Union. Wood, wood products, fish, and fish goods, therefore, form also the principal freighted goods which are sent out of the Far Eastern regions. World War II has had an extraordinary influence /177/ on the development of the other branches of industry. Various plants which had been moved to the Far East remained there after the end of the war; other plants were newly created or switched to another type of production in order to replace the loss in production in the areas affected by the war or also to ensure their own needs. Thus the supply situation today is generally more favorable than before World War II, and after this war it has been further improved by the erection of new installations. 438

In the selection of the location of the industrial plants the same principle apparently appears again and again. This principle is to so distribute these plants regionally in the vast area of the Far Eastern regions so that long transportation hauls are avoided as much as possible. The goal of this planning is to so equip the various areas with industrial plants so that each region can supply its own principal needs. The best example of this is the city of Magadan, from which the mining districts on the upper Kolyma are supplied and whose harbor is free of ice for scarcely six months. Besides repair installations for ocean-going ships 433 [185]

433 and repair shops for motor vehicles, factories have arisen here in which dredges, drilling machines, and other mining needs are produced. There are even factories for the production of glass, crockery, and electric lamps (Pravda November 12, 1947); these factories, according to various announcements, even exceed their annual quota. For these reasons the growth of the city to more than 50,000 inhabitants (1950) is understandable. But, on the other hand, large plants also appear here; mostly they are oriented toward raw materials, and their founding for the most part goes back to the second Five Year Plan. These plants are responsible for supplying extraordinarily large areas, indeed in part for the entire Far Eastern region. This results naturally not only in a burdening of the transportation system but also to inconveniences in regular supplies.

396 Shipbuilding has been fostered with the greatest of energy in the last few years. If Vladivostok with its dockyards for military and commercial ships was the leader in the past, it is at present surpassed by Komsomol'sk in this connection. Nothing has been announced about the capacity of the dockyard installations, but the estimate of the costs for building dockyard installations under the second Five Year Plan give a certain idea of the size of these installations. These costs were six times as large as the sums that were laid out for building the Marty ship dockyard in Nikolayev on the coast of the Black Sea in the Ukraine. This yard was built at approximately the same time and has six docks. The first sea-going ship left Komsomol'sk in 1939. Since then the dockyard installations here have been further expanded. According to their supplying plant, "Amur Steel," whose costs were somewhat higher, the Komsomol'sk dockyards are absolutely the largest plant which has been built in the Far East. The known shipyards in Vladivostok, in Nakhodka in the same area, and also in Nikolayevsk at the mouth of the Amur and in Khabarovsk /178/ have been further expanded. New shipyards have come into being in Sovyetskaya Gavan', in Petropavlovsk on the Kamchakta Peninsula, in Aleskandrovsk on Sakhalin, and in Magadan, which has already been mentioned. In the last two places named, however, there were not new constructions; only repairs were made. Warships were built in Vladivostok, Komsomol'sk, Khabarovsk, and Nikolayevsk. Sovyetskaya Gavan' is supposed to have been expanded recently as a base for smaller man-of-wars. Dockyards in the various river areas are available for building river vessels. Ulan-Ude takes care of the Selenga shipping. In the Amur area there are three dockyards: Kokuy near Sretensk on the Shilka, the left source

137 bamboos (Sasa Kurilensis), which, however, are limited to the western mountain range. This is the only region in the Soviet Union in which bamboo grows wild. In places the bamboo forms a thicket which appears almost tropical and which is difficult to get through.

563 162 231 The native population in northern Sakhalin is very small in number and comprises some thousand Gilyak and Orok. The Gilyak reside more at the mouths of rivers on the coast and provide for themselves by fishing and hunting. The Orok occupy themselves principally with the breeding of reindeer; for this they wander as nomads, even though within narrow borders, between the moss steppes in summer and the border regions of the taiga. The number of reindeer is modest.

563 162 The Russian population in northern Sakhalin has increased many times in number in the last three decades. In 1926 it was estimated to be 20,000, but already before World War II it grew more 361 than 100,000, and since then it has further increased. The population is concentrated essentially in three areas: Aleksandrovsk and the western coastal strip, /281/ which is made prominent economically by its coal mining; then the oil district in the north and on the northeastern coast; and, finally, in the valley of the Tym' and Poronay, which has a smaller percentage of the population. The population here is more agricultural. In general, however, the agrarian economy 433 is still little developed. In the last few years the Soviet administration has striven to ensure food for the industrial population both in the coal oil regions at least in part from local production. To be sure, the areas under cultivation are planted with bread grains, especially in the protected longitudinal valley, where there is a large number of kolkhoz and sovkhoz; however, the production yields only slight surpluses. In the other regions the climatic conditions are too unfavorable to be able to develop cultivation of grain in a grand style here. On 244 the other hand, it is different with the cultivation of potatoes, cabbage, and vegetables. Great successes are to be recorded in this connection. Especially prominent are the high yields of the potato harvests. On the basis of this experience a transition has been made in very recent times--apart from supplying the necessary potatoes for human nourishment--to enlarging the cultivation of potatoes in a planned fashion and to developing the breeding of pigs on a large scale on the basis of this. There are numerous reports of success on this.

361 The capital of northern Sakhalin (the capital of the oblast is now Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk) is Aleksandrovsk, which has approximately 20,000 inhabitants. It is the export harbor of the coal region. The

means of transportation. They have built 653.2 kilometers of railroad lines, and in addition they have improved the land roads, too, so that they can be traveled regularly by buses. However, this opening up to traffic has generally been limited to the regions near the coast and to the most southerly part of the island, while the greatest part of the interior, as in northern Sakhalin, remained left to itself. Now the most important coal deposits also lie not far from the coast, and the Japanese succeeded in bringing production in a large number of mines up to approximately two million tons by the beginning of the last war. Of this 500,000 tons could be exported to Japan. The remainder was used in Sakhalin, above all in the wood industry, which had been developed on a large scale by the Japanese. Since 1929 the Japanese had gone about, in a planned fashion, the building up of a cellulose and paper industry in southern Sakhalin, in order to be able to supply their home economy with these products. At the end, just before the outbreak of war, there were eleven large cellulose and paper factories in the country, and their production constituted almost 90 percent of the industrial production of southern Sakhalin. The share of these factories in the total production of Karafuto was around 60 percent. In addition, southern Sakhalin delivered large quantities of wood as cut wood and raw lumber. Southern Sakhalin was also very important to Japan as a base for fishing, which produced rich surpluses. However, in one thing the Japanese did not succeed: the securing of food for the population from the island itself. In this particular Sakhalin was an importing region, although the Japanese made every effort to expand agriculture and the breeding of livestock.

/283/ After the evacuation of the Japanese and the taking over of southern Sakhalin by the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union has striven to fill the land with people and to get the economy's production going again. On this there are numerous reports, which tell especially of the founding of kolkhoz and sovkhoz. In addition there are constant reports on the establishment of fishing stations and of fish-processing central stations, but there are only a very few reports on the taking over of coal mines and of getting them into production. There is little information on the installations of the wood industry, although it is to be assumed that the Soviet Union has above all laid value on getting the industrial plants into production, and apparently, too, everything has been done so that these plants could take up their production again.

by Nishikov's private hunting preserve. Near by, the prisoners of the invalid camp called 'Seventy-second Kilometer' work in a glass factory which is under the special protection of Gridassova and consequently always registers a marvelous production record. During the War burnt-out electric bulbs were repaired there, since new bulbs were almost unobtainable and even tiny bulbs were sold at a hundred and fifty rubles.[11]

7) The Kolyma Buildup (1932-1946): As has been indicated earlier, Magadan and the entire Kolyma area were almost uninhabited in 1932 when the expedition under Berzin reached Nagayevo port; however, although at a fantastic cost in human lives, remarkable development of the Kolyma area was made. As early as 1946 it was clearly known that Dalstroy's extensive and many-sided activities were coordinated in a system of administrative organizations, each of which deals with a specific section of the region's economy—the centers of all these organizations are located in Magadan. At that time the following were known to exist: administrations of supplies, fish industry, coal, wood manufacturing industry, road building, agriculture, motor transport, and a few others. Essentially these administrations have the same task—they must insure uninterrupted operation and success in the chief industry of the region—gold mining, and with this ultimate goal in mind, they must supply all necessary materials and products. The ideal situation, as desired by Dalstroy and no doubt by Moscow as well, seems to be for Magadan to be completely self-sufficient and to turn over to the state all gold mined. As far as the fishing industry is concerned, it is known that fish is exported from Kolyma to Vladivostok. Attempts have been made to extract oil locally to supply motor transport in the region; however, there has been little success in this project although the presence of oil deposits in the area has been definitely established.

Road construction was one of the primary tasks upon the initial efforts in Kolyma; just before World War II, another spurt in road building occurred. In 1939 the administration of road building was split into two independent organizations, one for the south and one for the north. By that time, the trunk highway from Magadan to Seimchan was being extended in the direction of the newer gold fields on the upper Indigirka River, and a number of side roads were also constructed to connect the main gold fields on the upper Kolyma River with the highway. Altogether, according to the best estimates, there were approximately 901 kilometers of paved roads in actual use at that time. However, this was inadequate, and in 1939-1940 a new plan of extensive road building was drawn up covering the construction of new roads in the extreme north, at the Kolyma estuary, and in the south, on the upper Kolyma, in the so-called "old" gold mining districts. In addition to new tributary roads, work was started in 1939 on the construction of a second motor highway from Dresva Bay on the Sea of Okhotsk to the gold-mining territory on the upper Kolyma. Even far more reaching were the plans for road construction east of the Kolyma estuary, in the tundra of the Arctic coastal region, down to the Bering Strait, where geological exploration had discovered gold fields of exception richness, perhaps exceeding those of the upper Kolyma. There have been no exact data concerning these plans; understandably, the information coming from the deep interior of the Kolyma region is generally far more scant than that coming from Magadan. However, at the beginning of the Russo-German War in 1941, all these plans for road construction were curtailed for obvious reasons. As has been indicated earlier, practically all construction activities were halted and many short-term prisoners were even sent back to European Russia where they served actively in the defense of the Soviet Union. In connection with the construction of roads just prior to the German

11 Ibid., pp. 110-111.

are known regarding the total prisoner population, one thing is certain and that is that the entire Magadan enterprise is on a very large scale and that prisoners form the greatest majority of workers. Due to the fact that three known prisoner ships which were operating in 1940, the "Felix Dzherzhinskiy," "Uritsky," and "Dzhurma," are still plying the same Vladivostok-Magadan route, it is a reasonable assumption that the prisoner traffic is continuing. (Note: It is difficult to assume that these ships have changed the nature of their cargo inasmuch as it is definitely known that the holds of these ships were constructed in a special manner to transport large numbers of prisoners; although it is admittedly possible to change the internal structure of these three ships, it is dubious that this has been done, because it is known from reports from Radio Magadan that activities are being expanded throughout the Kolyma economy. Since the death rate has been so high in the past among prisoners, it is difficult to see how further development of the region could be undertaken without importing further number of prisoners every year.)

8) The City of Magadan: One of the results of Berzin's administration was the construction of the city of Magadan; by 1941 the population of this city had been estimated at approximately 70,000, composed of NVD officials and hired specialists who volunteered for service under the Dalstroy administration. It was further estimated that at that time there were some 50,000 such specialists scattered throughout the region. Another section of the population in the Magadan area, numbering a few thousands, was represented by exiles, mostly highly qualified experts whose work in Dalstroy had entitled them to some special privileges, although they are still subject to the NVD. Outside of the city of Magadan there were several big camps for prisoners with fluctuating populations.

The central streets of the city were lined with two- and three story houses. Electricity was provided by a power station which also supplied electricity to the taiga areas by means of wires strung over the surrounding mountain ridges.

The population of Magadan faced a problem in the procurement of foodstuffs. In an effort to relieve this situation, "Magadan has a large experimental farm equipped with hothouses. The latter already (1941) grew 'Kolyma' apples, pears, peaches, and even oranges, not to mention a variety of berries, while all kinds of vegetables are developed in the hotbeds, including cucumbers, cabbage, eggplant, muskmelon, and watermelon."[12] The chief problem in the attempts at agriculture was the geological ice. Repeated deep plowing of the soil, the use of fertilizer in great quantities, and similar measures have been used in scientific experiments and have achieved good results. Thus, in some places the ice formerly came to within one to two feet from the surface of the ground, but it has been pushed down to six or eight feet, which has made possible the cultivation of cereals. (Note: Agriculture in Magadan and the entire Kolyma region will be treated in a subsequent report.)

9) Summation: The entire Kolyma region is growing in importance constantly, and due to the produce obtained from this area, in addition to the increasing population, Magadan and the hinterland cannot be ignored or treated lightly. There are two general aspects of the Kolyma region which should be noted:

1) In the New York Times of 9 January 1946, it was reported that there is total gold supply in Moscow of between the wide range of two and ten billion dollars. The interesting aspect of this surmise is the fact that in 1925 or even in 1930 the Soviet government was forced to sell the treasures of Russian museums in order to pay for machinery that it had purchased abroad. Soviet gold has made its appearance only

12 Dallin, op. cit., p. 133.

during the years 1931 and 1934, and it continued to appear in increasing quantities even during the "Great Fatherland War" when the entire nation was absorbed in the defeat of the German armies. The Soviet Union was in great need of gold some twenty-five years ago, but the gold supplies have grown immensely since that time; the richest gold-producing area in the Soviet Union is Kolyma, and due to the known build-up of the area, it is a reasonable assumption that Kolyma is providing the Soviet Government with the majority of its growing gold reserves. It is this fact that makes Magadan and the entire Kolyma area of such importance, not only to the internal economy of the Soviet Union but also to the future of world politics, because it is a well-known fact that the Soviet Union will use any means at its disposal to increase its international prestige. It is not mere speculation that Soviet offers of economic assistance to foreign nations may have the backing of Kolyma gold. 436 433

2) The Kolyma region is intended to become a self-sufficient area, not only in agriculture but also in fishing and numerous other industries including the production of coal, oil, machinery, among others. A similar situation as was found in Sakhalin may also be said to exist in Kolyma--local self-sufficiency while exporting to the interior the products desired by the Communist planners. For Sakhalin it was concluded that the overall plan was for the Oblast to become self-sufficient while exporting to the mainland oil and fish products; for Magadan and Kolyma, it also appears that the overall picture calls for self-sufficiency while exporting gold to Moscow. 433